

My name is Alan Voss from Jovalan Farms Mundubbera and my family are operating a continuous farming operation growing grain, oil seeds and pulses. Previously we were predominately citrus growers but along came 27.01.2013, and Oswald, we lost all of that so started again. Our location is in the upper Burnett Irrigation system between Mundubbera and Eidsvold. Most of our farm is watered by centre pivots to give the lowest cost of energy and least evaporation with under slung sprinklers. Because Ergon have imposed prohibitive power line relocation fees we still use a water winch in a powerline infested area.

Our operating power costs vary between river and ground water, pivots and water winch. They are \$69.47/ml pivot av and \$268.81/ml water winch, the water is \$33.81/ml. Our average cost is \$137.30/ml, from this we can take away rain if opportune and hope no hail, wind or unseasonal falls like October 2017 which lodged, sprouted and rotted an 8T/ha wheat crop, with high input costs then total loss. We work on averages. The potential electricity increases of 2-300% will annihilate us.

Double water plus we pay QCA's \$2.5 million will financially ruin irrigators. In our close location, 13 irrigator farmers have ceased, and only 3 work full time on their farms and 8 others have a job in a differ industry to subsidise their farm. There used to be 460ha citrus with 3.1ha/staff members or 150 people in the 20km's of river I am talking about, above this is the approx. 30 people in town jobs. Economic water was our life blood, just look at the empty/dead shops in Eidsvold, Mundubbera and Gayndah. I only know my close location.

There is not even a genuine machinery dealer left, only one car/tractor dealer. This causes our costs to rise as all parts come from Brisbane, Bundaberg or Toowoomba. There have been significant social and economic benefits lost and this will make it worse. The courier services are Bundaberg-Biloela or Brisbane based not enough to warrant a local operator anymore.

Further on social issues, recently I meet a drought affected grazier at Mitchell, it was just after our Premier announced \$8 million for mental issues in the country. His comment summed up country business people that are under pressure from weather, government and banks, that they would have suicidal thoughts. Country people work hoping for a few dollars left over after input costs. We are professional gamblers at high risk. Hundreds of thousands of dollars of input with the hope of getting it back plus a bit, after fire, hail, drought, flood and government increased charges.

We do these submissions and compelled to have input in our own time, unpaid, while on the other hand QCA and the Qld Government have paid staff with expense accounts that we also pay for. Thanks for the extension.

Water and power represent approx. 40% of direct input costs double or triple it and we are financially ruined. Your system of increasing costs and jamming all the overheads on to 1 or 2 irrigators that are left is unsustainable. It is corrupt leaving out Kirra and Paradise and honest analyses can't be achieved. Then include the Leslie dam in the upper Burnett as per Sunwater's website. We are a profitable area for Sunwater and not been subject to the catch up of \$2/ml/year.

Our direct input cost is now half of our proposed yield, then we have our overheads, interest rates, insurance, living, wages, repairs, maintenance, replacement of machinery. Economically just rework figures of the last review as this would decrease costs in the system that are now being exploited. Totally forget the risk of .006% which will double the cost. Who directed irrigators to have to pay half of the safety guidelines, a lousy agenda. I suggest the 1 in 15,000 years is only a fantasy of a computer operator, apparently the operator sets the parameters to a specific idea. I find this so amazing that maybe God or Noah could tell us more. I assume their idea would be a bit more than we can comprehend. It seems to me that any weir/dam would be like a straw of grass in the gutter in a city if 1 in 15,000 happens, we assume you mean more wet. Our overheads go up as irrigator numbers go down because the costs are paid by the few that are still operating.

If we do not use any water, we still pay \$29.33/ml or in our case \$21,268.79, if we use half of our allocation our water component doubles, then there is Tariff 66, licence fee/pump and Ergon's fixed charge / kw of each motor this is on 75kw is \$15060.80 per year.

Our costs of producing a corn crop is \$1680.00/ha of this \$835.10 is power and water (6ml/ha). If it rains for 100% of the crop my water bill is still \$21,268.79 and the electricity fixed charges of \$15060.80. We have suffered 160% increase for power over recent years and when there was a small reduction it excluded irrigators. The last price rise was approx. 30% and that included the loss of tariff 22. That's a hell of a rise.

I find the government has that many levels of control on industries, the costs have us on our knees. Then add 27.01.2013, we had an unprecedented level of water in our area up stream from Mundubbera and since then we have not paid any capital back to the bank. The grain prices have improved due to the drought but this will change back to very ordinary prices again when the drought is over.

Another major imposition in living in the NBRC with thousands of tons of produce to deliver we have no M/C vehicle access. This started with council amalgamation 10 years ago and has not improved. Our close grain growing areas Theodore/ Biloela / Durong / Jandowae can transport approx. 75T compared to our 25T/ load, subsequently our freight is approx. double the other areas.

I think a risk of 0.006% is so minute the people who can not except that, should be wrapped in cotton wool with a face mask and maybe wear gloves for the computer buttons, also get a job in another country where NO RISK is acceptable or let them pay for their extravagant unrealistic ideas, then produce food with NO RISK after a safety audit and still live.

How sustainable are we with present prices and costs? We just hope to pay the banks something this year. Double our water \$'s and maybe power at present grain prices, we will not be here. This is not only the grain industry but cattle, fodder and the citrus industry has also been hit hard.

I invite you to discuss this in detail on a one on one bases with me plus come and look over our farm with an adequate time frame to understand where I am coming from.

Yours Sincerely,

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